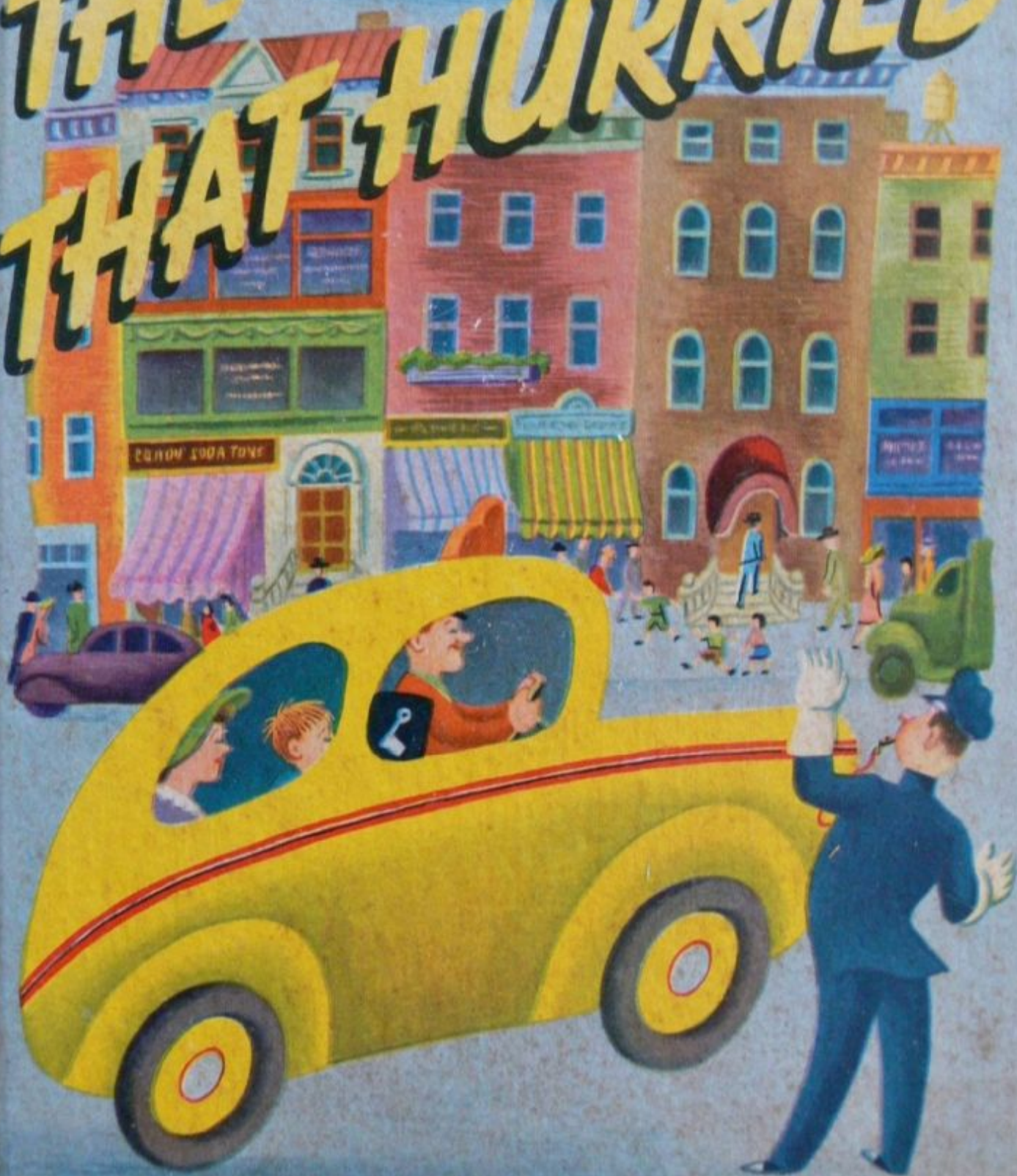
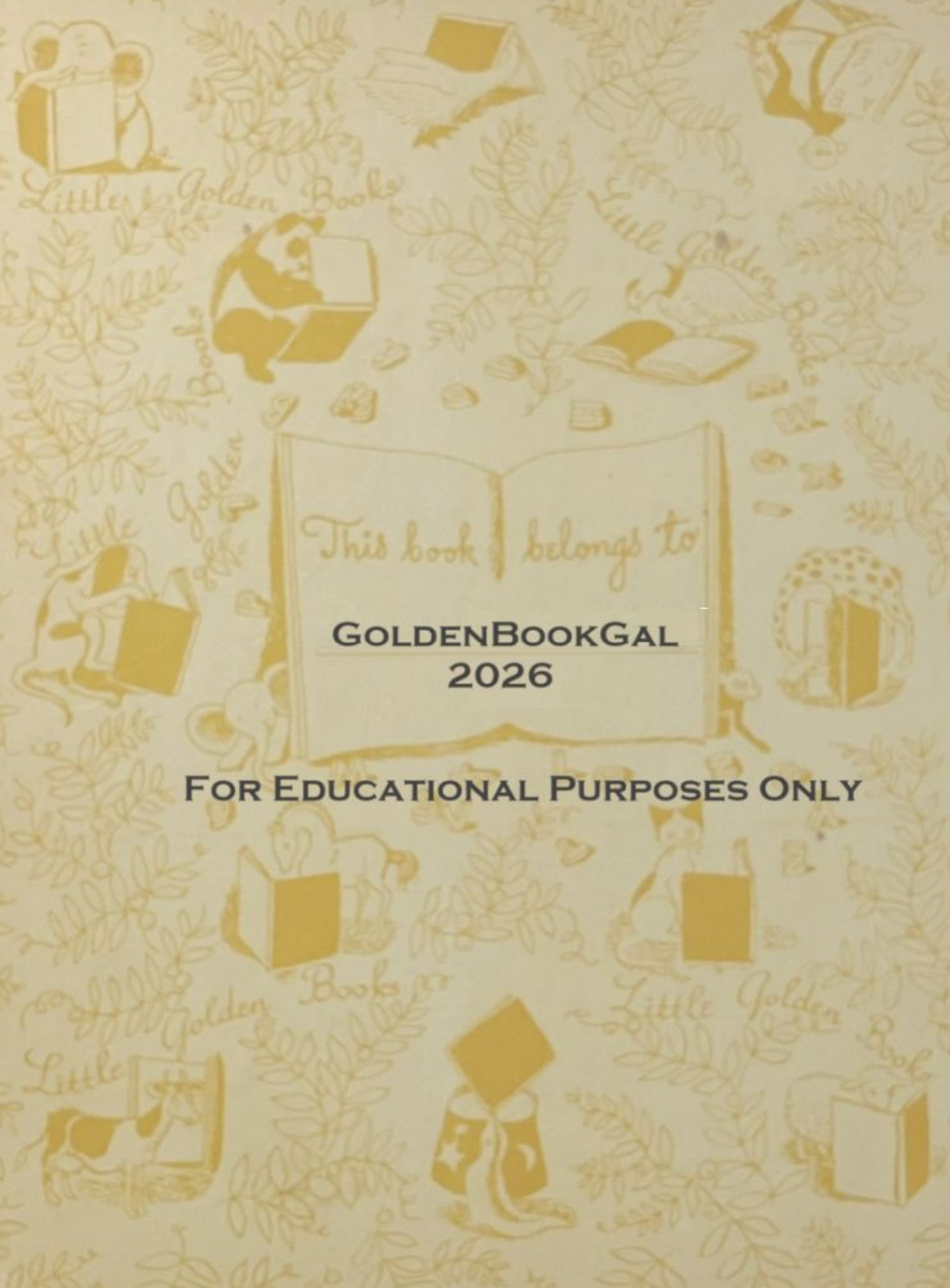


THE TAXI THAT HURRIED



A LITTLE GOLDEN BOOK



This book belongs to

**GOLDENBOOKGAL
2026**

FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

The Taxi That Hurried

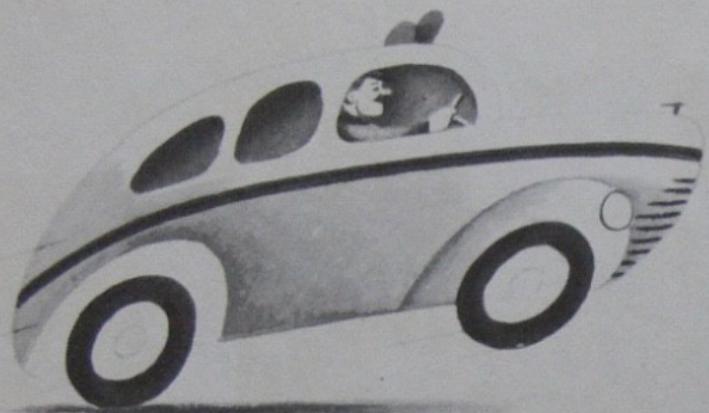
By LUCY SPRAGUE MITCHELL,
IRMA SIMONTON BLACK, AND JESSIE STANTON

Pictures by TIBOR GERGELY



A BANK STREET BOOK
SIMON AND SCHUSTER · NEW YORK

THIS IS A BANK STREET BOOK
WRITTEN AND TESTED BY THE BANK STREET SCHOOLS,
PIONEER LEADERS IN RESEARCH IN EDUCATION
FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



About the Authors and Artist

LUCY SPRAGUE MITCHELL, JESSIE STANTON, and IRMA SIMONTON BLACK are all connected with the Bank Street Schools. Mrs. Mitchell is chairman of the Bureau of Educational Experiments; Miss Stanton is director of the Harriet Johnson Nursery School; Mrs. Black is on the faculty of the Cooperative School for Teachers.

TIBOR GERGELY has illustrated many of the best-loved Little Golden Books, including TOOTLE and A DAY IN THE JUNGLE.



Once there was a taxi. It was a bright yellow taxi with two red lines running around its body. Inside it had a soft leather seat and two hard little let-down seats.



It was a smart little taxi. For it could start fast—jerk-whizz!! It could tear along the street—whizz-squeak!!



It could stop fast—squeak-jerk!!



Its driver's name was Bill. He stepped on the gas to make the taxi start fast. He stepped on the brake to make it stop fast. Together they were a speedy pair. They could wiggle through the traffic, they could jiggle up the passengers better than anything else on the city streets.

One day the taxi was standing on the street close to the sidewalk. Bill and the little taxi didn't like to stand still long. They liked to keep on the move. "I wonder who will be our next passengers," thought Bill.



Just then Bill heard some feet running on the sidewalk, thump, thump, thump! And he heard some smaller feet pattering along, too, thumpety, thumpety, thumpety!



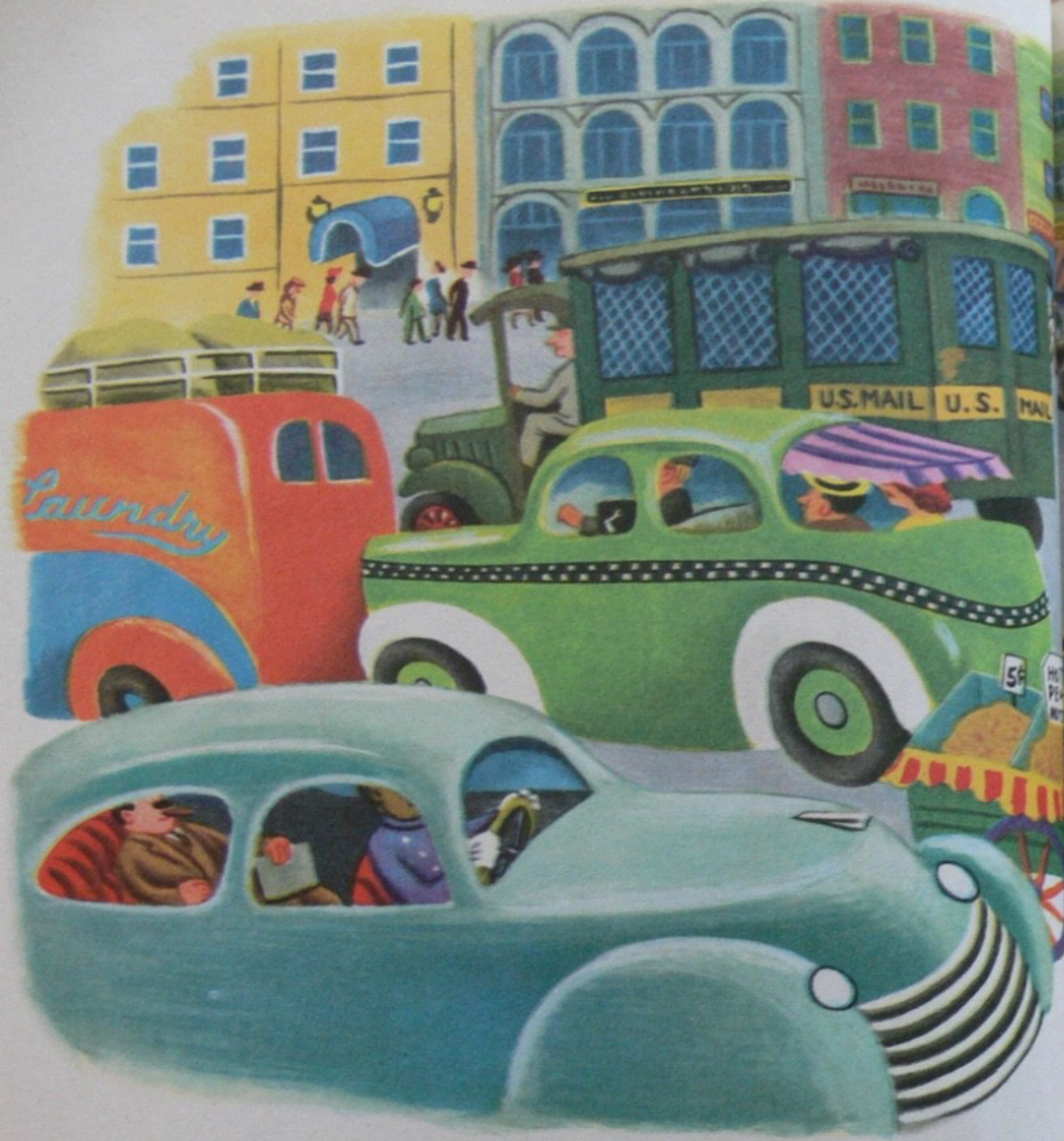
He leaned out and saw Tom with a little suitcase and Tom's mother with a big suitcase. And both of them were breathing hard.

"Oh!" gasped Tom's mother. "Taxi driver-man, please drive us to the station as fast as you can. We're very late and the train won't wait. Oh!—oh!—oh!"

Tom and his mother tumbled into the taxi and slammed the door.

"Sure, lady," answered Bill. "We're a speedy pair. We can get you there."





Away went the taxi.



It liked to tear along in a hurry, purring softly. It rushed down the street like a yellow streak with the two red lines blurred into one around its middle. It wiggled through the traffic.

Tom and his mother bounced and jounced on the leather seats. Tom's mother sat on the wide, soft one behind. But Tom sat on a little hard one so that he could look out of the window.





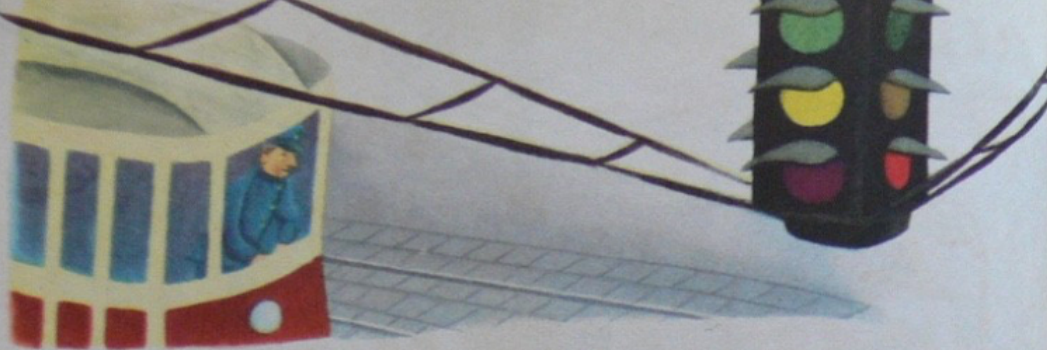
Then suddenly, squeak-jerk! The taxi stopped short. It stood stock still in the middle of the street. Ahead shone a bright red light. Underneath the light stood a big traffic policeman holding up his right hand.



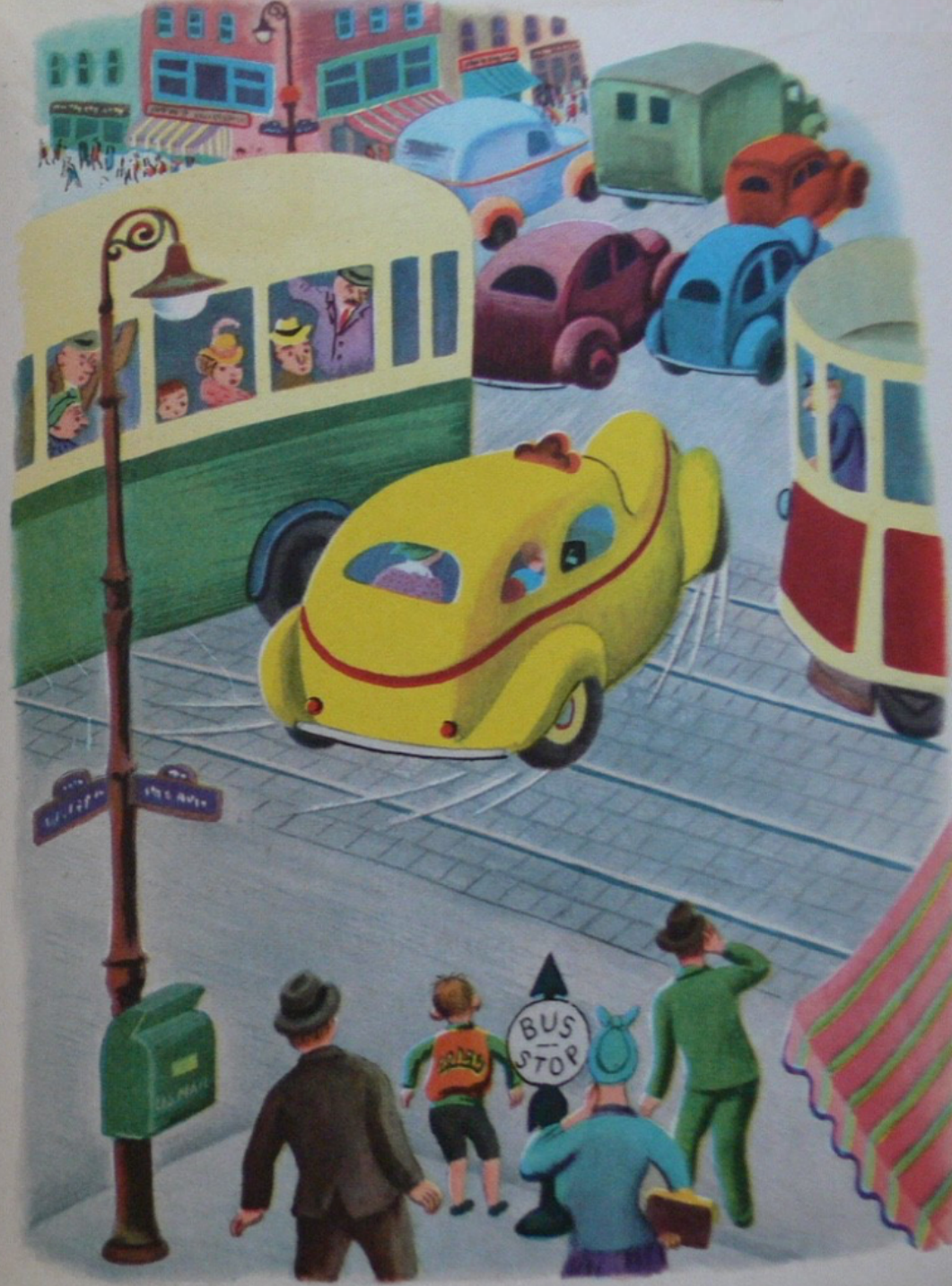
Tom's mother called through the window, "Taxi driver-man, must you stop when lights are red? We simply have to get ahead. We're *terribly* late and the train won't wait."

And Bill answered, "Surely, lady, you have seen how cars must wait till lights are green. But we're a speedy pair, we'll surely get you there." Then suddenly, jerk-whizz! They were off again down the crowded street.





For the light had changed to green again. Away went the taxi down the street faster than ever. Now it had to turn and twist, for the street was full of traffic—trucks and wagons and other taxis. The little taxi hurried past them all like a yellow streak and people could hardly see Tom's little face looking out of the window as he bounced and jounced by. "My!" said the people on the sidewalk. "That's a speedy taxi. I wonder why it's in such a hurry. Lucky it's got such a good driver." The taxi wiggled around a big bus. It jiggled across a trolley track. Then suddenly, squeak-jerk! The little taxi stopped short again.



It stood stock still behind a big coal truck that was backing up to the sidewalk. For the driver was trying hard to get his truck just the right way for the black coal to go jumping and clattering down its slide into a hole in the sidewalk.



Tom stood up so that he could see the big coal truck better. He could see the handle on the side. He wished he could watch the driver turn that handle and make the big truck tip up in front. He almost wished they were not in such a hurry.



It stood stock still behind a big coal truck that was backing up to the sidewalk. For the driver was trying hard to get his truck just the right way for the black coal to go jumping and clattering down its slide into a hole in the sidewalk.



Tom stood up so that he could see the big coal truck better. He could see the handle on the side. He wished he could watch the driver turn that handle and make the big truck tip up in front. He almost wished they were not in such a hurry.





Tom's mother called through the window:
"Taxi driver-man, first it's a cop that makes you
stop and now we're stuck behind a truck. We're
awfully late and the train won't wait."

So Bill called to the truck driver, "Please,
will you try to let me get by?"



And the truck driver grinned and stopped
his truck. Carefully and slowly Bill squeezed by
the big coal truck, close to the sidewalk.

Bill called over his shoulder, "We're a speedy
pair. We'll get you there."

Now the taxi went so fast that people skipped up onto the sidewalk as it went by and everyone thought: "That's the speediest



taxi I ever saw!" Then suddenly, squeak-jerk! The taxi stopped short and Tom almost fell through the front window.



Tom's mother bounced so hard on the wide leather seat that her head whacked the ceiling of the taxi. Her hat slid down over one ear. Her big suitcase fell over with a bang on the floor and Tom's little suitcase hopped off the seat.

Tom's mother pulled her hat on straight again. Then she looked at her watch. Then she looked out of the window at all the taxis and buses and trucks.





Once more she called to Bill on the front seat:
"Taxi driver-man, first it's a cop that makes
you stop; then you get stuck behind a truck.
Now the traffic is in our way. We're likely to sit
here the rest of the day. We're *horribly* late and
the train won't wait!"





So Bill began to blow his horn. "Honk! honk!" shrieked the little taxi. "Honk! honk! HONK!!!

"We want to go. You make us slow! We're a speedy pair. We want to get there. Honk! Honk!"

HONK!!!

Honk!

Honk!"

The nearer they came to the station, the more taxis and buses and trucks there were on the street.

Past them all the speedy taxi wiggled and jiggled, twisting and turning and curving and dodging. Tom jounced so hard on the little let-down seat that he could hardly see all the trucks and taxis and wagons and buses on the street.

Suddenly they stopped, and Bill blew the horn again. "Honk!"

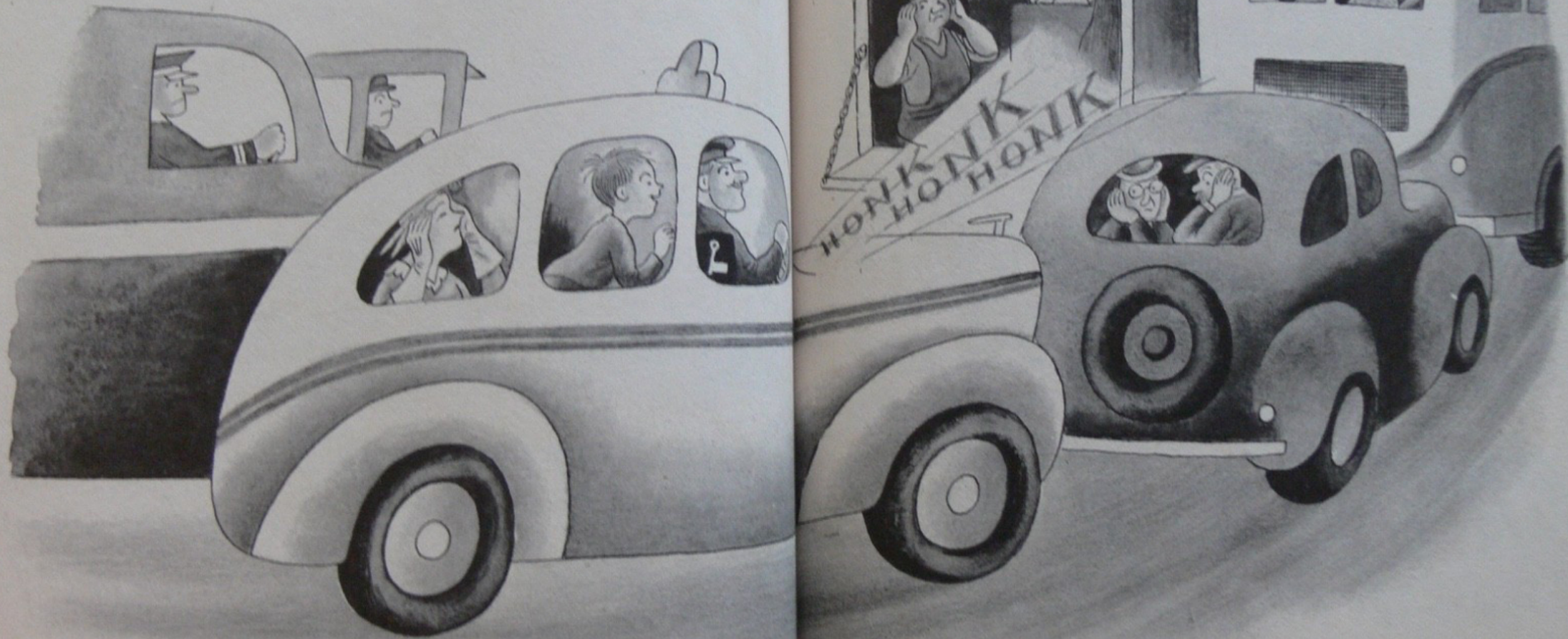
Honk!

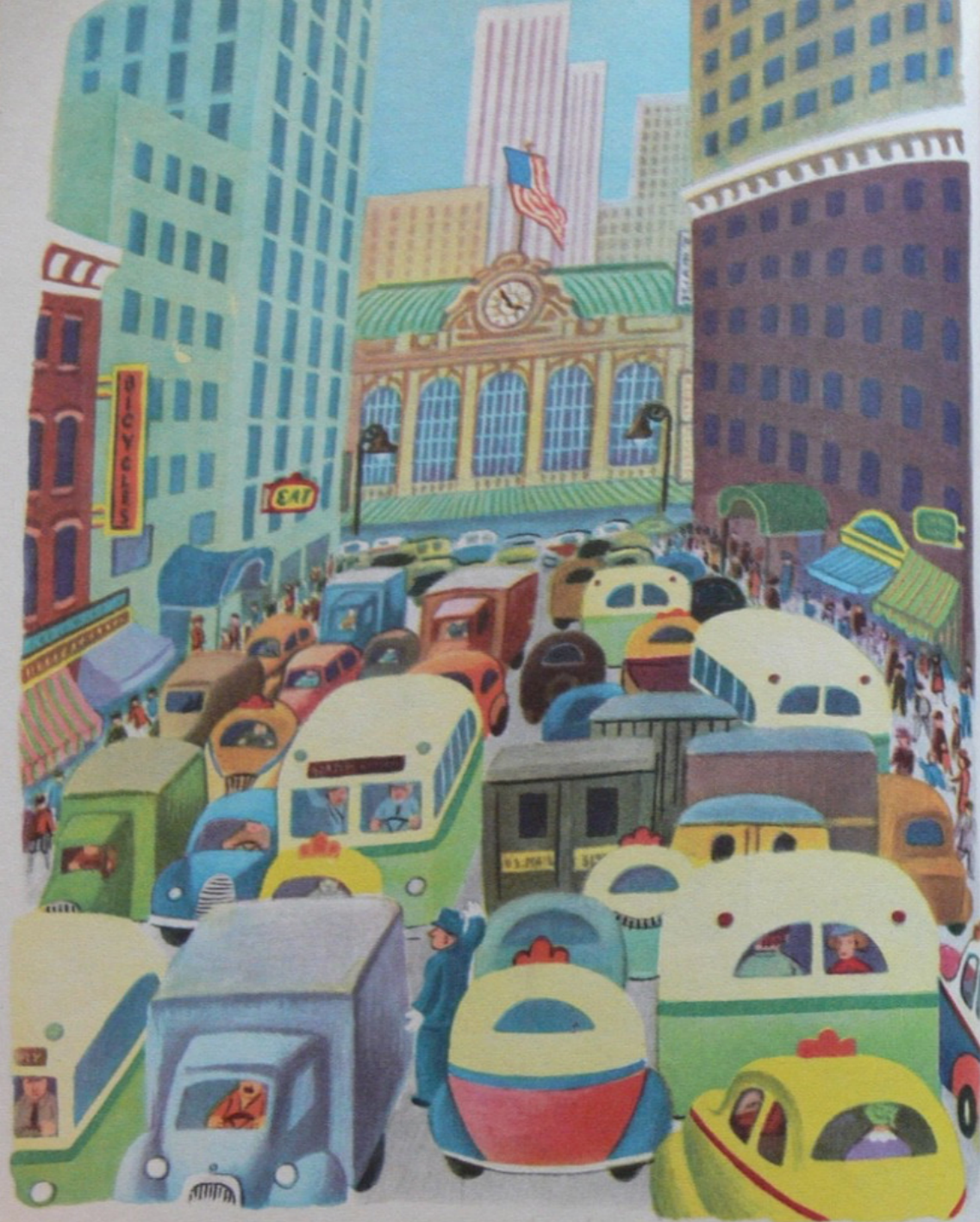
HONK!"

Tom's mother put her fingers in her ears, for she didn't like the noise. She thought, "Here we sit. We really need wings, to pass so many poky things."

But Tom shouted to the taxi driver-man in a loud voice to make him hear, "Do it again, please; do it again, please!"

And the taxi driver-man honked again.

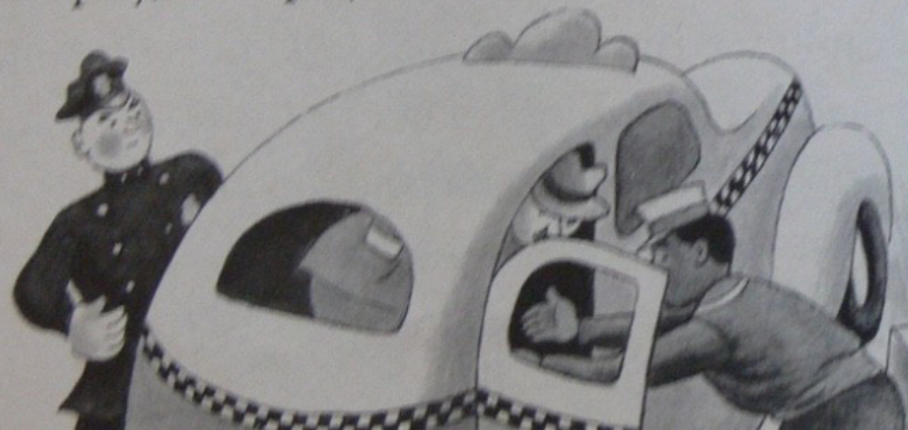




Down the street, up above the station, they could see the big station clock. In five minutes the train would go. They really were very, terribly, awfully, horribly late, and they knew the train wouldn't wait.

Then suddenly, jerk, jerk! The traffic began to move. First a taxi, then a bus, then a truck, then more taxis, more buses, more trucks, till the whole line was moving. The speedy little taxi wiggled through the traffic: It dodged around a bus and it twisted around a truck and it whizzed past a taxi. Tom's mother kept looking at the big station clock. It said four minutes before the train went. Then three minutes. Then two minutes—and the little taxi drew up by the station.

Tom jumped out of the taxi while his mother gave Bill the money. She grabbed her big suitcase. Tom grabbed his little suitcase. And off they ran, thump, thump, thump, thumpety, thumpety, thumpety.





Bill looked after them and grinned at his yellow taxi. "Sure," he said. "We're a speedy pair—we got them there."

And it was true. The conductor was just ready to signal the engineer to start.

But he saw Tom and his mother come running down the platform and he waited for them. He took the big suitcase from Tom's mother, helped her up the steps of the car and handed her the big suitcase. Tom climbed up the steps after her, panting from his run and holding his little suitcase.

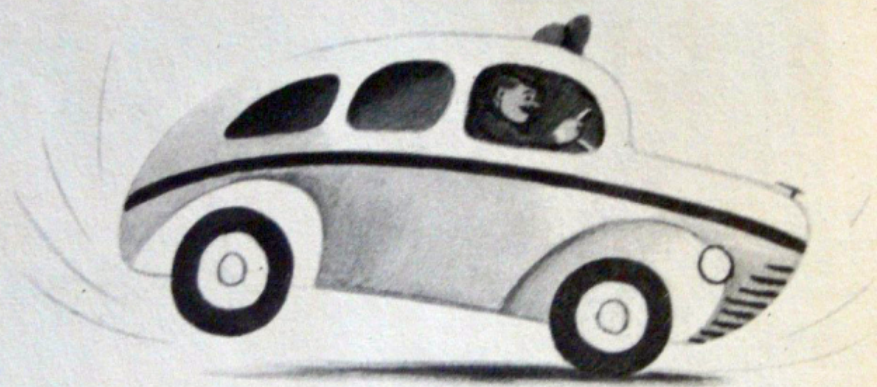
"All aboard!" called the conductor, waving his hand to the engineer.



Then the conductor swung onto the train just as it began to move. "You're a fast runner," he said to Tom. And to Tom's mother he said, "Lady, you just made it."

Tom was still breathing hard but he managed to gasp out, "We made it—because—we had such a speedy taxi—and speedy driver. You should have seen—that taxi hurry!"





THE LITTLE GOLDEN LIBRARY

The Child Study Association of America says about the Little Golden Books:
"*... the answer to a parent's prayer: fine pictures, excellent print and the best of stories for the youngest listener and reader—at a price most of us can afford.*"

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Three Little Kittens | 27. Story of Jesus — |
| 2. Bedtime Stories — | 28. Chip Chip — |
| 3. Alphabet from A to Z | 29. Noises and Mr. Flibberty-Jib |
| 4. Mother Goose | 30. Scuffy the Tugboat — |
| 5. Prayers for Children — | 31. Circus Time |
| 6. Little Red Hen | 32. Fix It, Please |
| 7. Nursery Songs | 33. Let's Go Shopping |
| 8. Poky Little Puppy — | 34. Hymns |
| 9. Fairy Tales — | 35. Happy Family — |
| 10. My First Book | 36. Saggy Baggy Elephant |
| 11. Animals of Farmer Jones | 37. Year on the Farm |
| 12. Counting Rhymes | 38. Poetry |
| 13. Birds — | 39. Animal Babies |
| 14. Nursery Tales · | 40. Singing Games |
| 15. Lively Little Rabbit — | 41. The New Baby |
| 16. Flowers | |
| 17. Hansel and Gretel — | |
| 18. Day in the Jungle — | |
| 19. Bible Stories | |
| 20. Night Before Christmas | |
| 21. Tootle — | |
| 22. Toys | |
| 23. Shy Little Kitten — | |
| 24. New House in the Forest — | |
| 25. Taxi That Hurried — | |
| 26. Christmas Carols | |

WALT DISNEY'S LITTLE LIBRARY

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| D1. Through the Picture Frame |
| D2. Cold-Blooded Penguin |
| D3. Dumbo — |
| D5. Peter and the Wolf |
| D6. Uncle Remus Stories — |

25¢ EACH

S I M O N A N D S C H U S T E R